ALBERTA LABOUR FORCE PROFILES

Immigrants in the Labour Force

2014

Alberta

Highlights

Please see the Appendix for important definitions.

1. Immigrants in Alberta [1]

- Of the 6.9 million working age immigrants in Canada, 9.9% lived in Alberta in 2014.
- In 2014, immigrants accounted for 20.8% of the working age population in Alberta, the third highest percentage among all the provinces, after Ontario and British Columbia.
- Alberta's annual share of new immigrants arriving in Canada was 16.3%, the third highest among the provinces, after Ontario and Quebec.

2. Labour Force Statistics of Immigrants in Alberta

- In 2014, Alberta had the second highest labour force participation and the second highest employment rates for immigrants among all provinces in Canada.
- The participation rates for male and female immigrants in Alberta, 77.3% and 62.9% respectively, were lower than their provincial counterparts' participation rates.
- Unemployed immigrants accounted for 22.7% of total unemployed Albertans in 2014.
- In 2014, very recent immigrants (who landed 5 or less years earlier) had a higher unemployment rate than both established immigrants (who landed more than 10 years earlier) and recent immigrants (who landed 5 years to 10 years earlier).
- The unemployment rate of established immigrants, 4.8%, was slightly higher than the provincial rate of 4.7%.

3. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Industry

- The Services-Producing sector employed 76.0% of all working immigrants compared to the provincial average of 80.3% in 2014.
- Over one quarter of all Alberta immigrants were employed in Health Care and Social Assistance and Trade (retail and wholesale) industries.

4. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Occupation

- In 2014, a higher proportion of Alberta immigrants were employed in the following five occupations compared to the provincial average: Management, Natural and applied sciences and related, Health, Sales and services, and Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities. Together, these five occupations accounted for 58.1% of employed Alberta immigrants compared to the provincial share of 47.7%.

5. Full-time/Part-time Employment of Immigrants in Alberta

- A slightly higher percentage of employed immigrants, 84.0%, worked full-time compared to provincial average of 83.5%.
- A lower percentage of employed Alberta immigrants aged 15-24 worked full-time compared to the provincial average.

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[1] *Temporary foreign workers, refugee claimants and other non-permanent residents are not immigrants and are excluded from this analysis.*

6. Average Hourly Wage of Immigrants in Alberta

- On average, Alberta immigrants earned $2.80 less than the provincial average.
- Alberta immigrants employed in the following four industries earned higher average hourly wages than the provincial average: Agriculture; Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; and Accommodation and Food Services.
- Among Alberta immigrants, established immigrants earned the highest average hourly wage of $27.16, followed by immigrants who came here 5 years ago, $26.61, and $20.91for very recent immigrants who came here less than 5 years ago.

Alberta's share of working age immigrants in Canada at 9.9% was the fourth highest after Ontario's 53.3%, British Columbia's 16.8% and Quebec's 14.6% (Figure 1).

Figure 1

Immigrant Working Age Population by Province, 2014

	Immigrant Population (15+ years)	Share
Canada	6,908,500	100.0%
Newfoundland and Labrador	10,200	0.1%
Prince Edward Island	7,200	0.1%
Nova Scotia	46,000	0.7%
New Brunswick	25,000	0.4%
Quebec	1,007,500	14.6%
Ontario	3,682,200	53.3%
Manitoba	195,300	2.8%
Saskatchewan	87,900	1.3%
Alberta	**683,400**	**9.9%**
British Columbia	1,163,700	16.8%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014

Alberta had the third highest percentage of immigrants in its working age population at 20.8%, behind Ontario at 32.7%, and British Columbia at 30.4% (Figure 2).

Figure 2

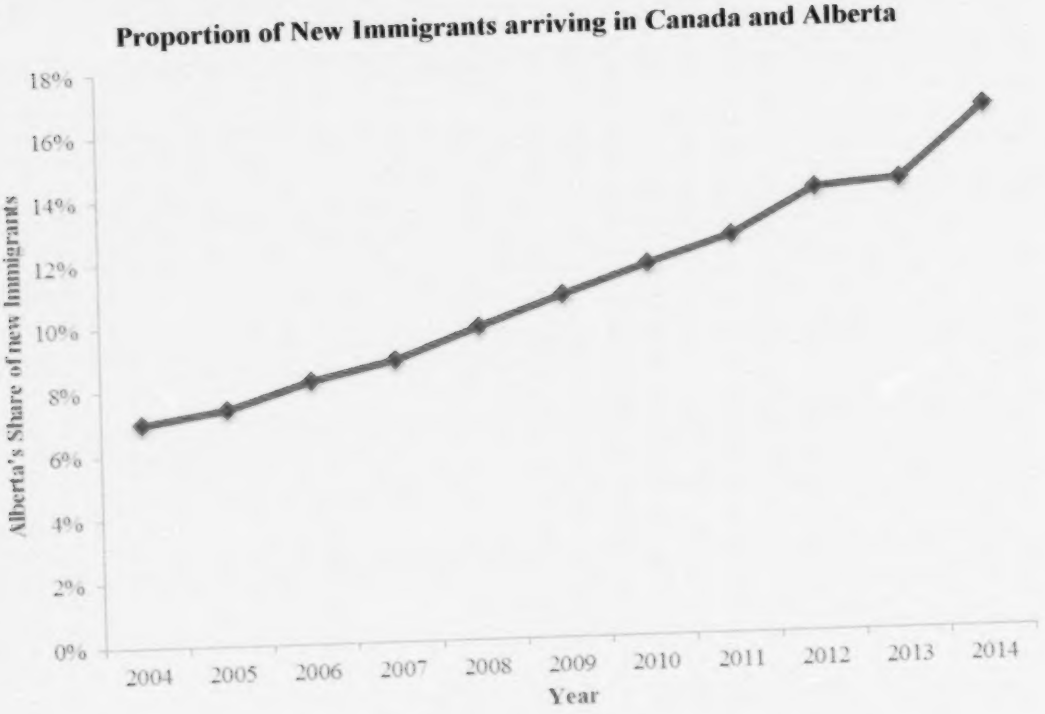
Percentage of Immigrants in Working Age Population, Canada and Provinces, 2014

	Total Population (15+ years)	Immigrant Population (15+ years)	Proportion of Immigrants (15+ years)
Canada	28,980,600	6,908,500	23.8%
Newfoundland and Labrador	443,900	10,200	2.3%
Prince Edward Island	120,600	7,200	6.0%
Nova Scotia	783,000	46,000	5.9%
New Brunswick	621,700	25,000	4.0%
Quebec	6,802,200	1,007,500	14.8%
Ontario	11,269,300	3,682,200	32.7%
Manitoba	976,400	195,300	20.0%
Saskatchewan	852,200	87,900	10.3%
Alberta	**3,281,800**	**683,400**	**20.8%**
British Columbia	3,829,600	1,163,700	30.4%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014

Alberta's annual share of new immigrants arriving in Canada grew continuously from 2004 to 2014 (Figure 3). In 2014, Alberta's share of Canada's new immigrants was 16.3% and Alberta's share of Canada's total working age population was 12.5% in 2014.

Figure 3



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014

The 683,400 immigrants in Alberta made up 20.8% of the Alberta working age population in 2014, while the immigrant labour force of 477,800 was 18.4% of the labour force in Alberta (Figure 4).

Figure 4

Labour Force Statistics for Immigrants in Alberta, 2014

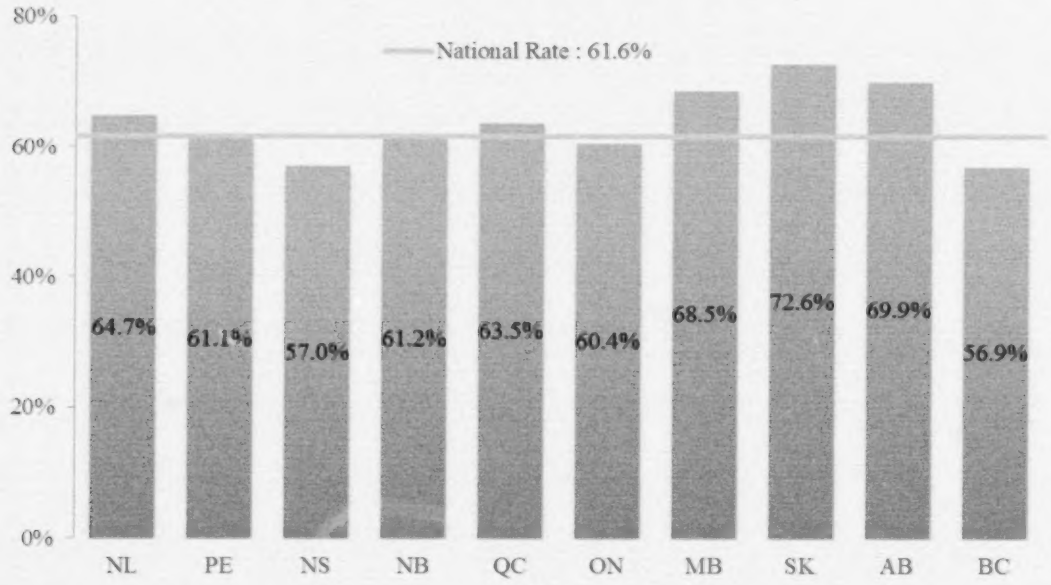
	Alberta (15+ years)	Alberta Immigrants (15+ years)
Working Age Population	3,281,800	683,400
Labour Force	2,386,200	477,800
Employment	2,274,600	452,400
Unemployment	111,700	25,400
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	5.3%
Participation Rate	72.7%	69.9%
Employment Rate	69.3%	66.2%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014

In 2014, immigrants in Alberta had the second highest participation rate among all provinces, at 69.9%, behind Saskatchewan's 72.6%. The Canadian rate for immigrants was 61.6% (Figure 5).

Figure 5

Participation Rate of Immigrants by Province, 2014

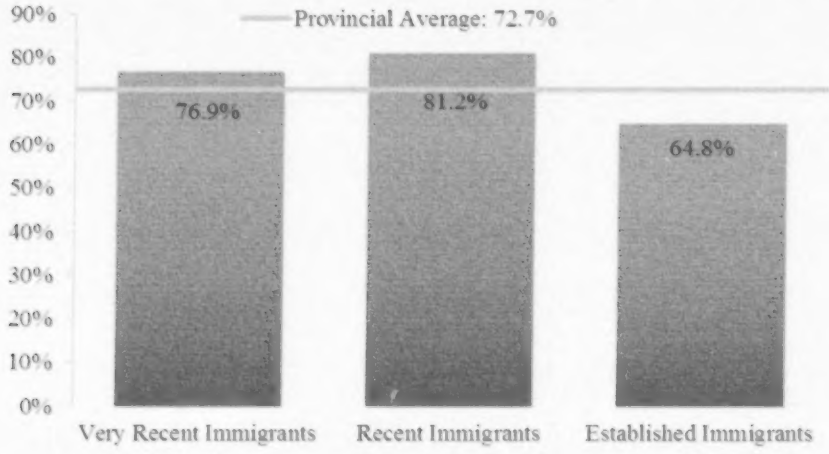


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014

At 81.2%, Alberta recent immigrants had the highest participation rate among the three immigrant categories in 2014 (Figure 6). This rate was 16.4 percentage points higher than the participation rate of established immigrants and 8.5 percentage points higher than the provincial average.

Figure 6

Participation Rates for Alberta Immigrants, 2014

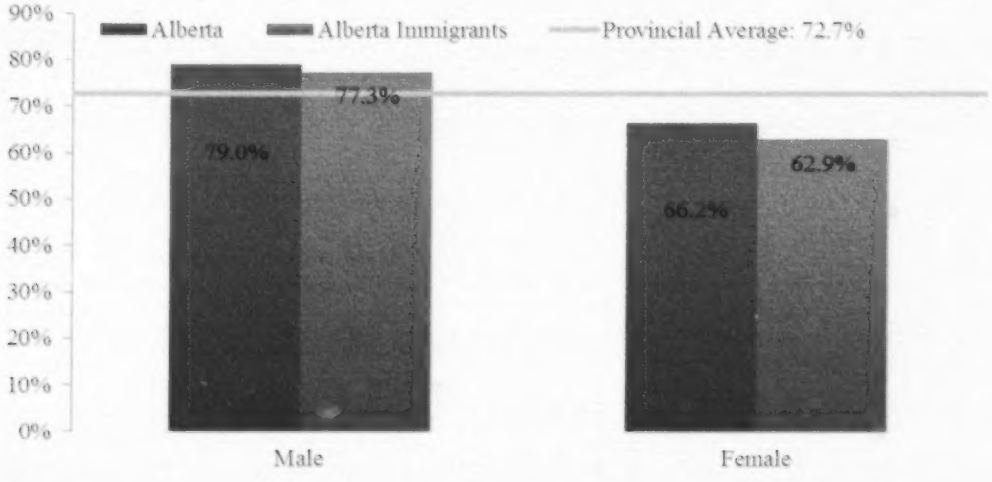


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014
Note: See the appendix for the definitions of very recent immigrants, recent immigrants and established immigrants.

The provincial participation rates for males and females in the labour force were higher than the corresponding rates for male and female immigrant in Alberta (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Participation Rates, 2014

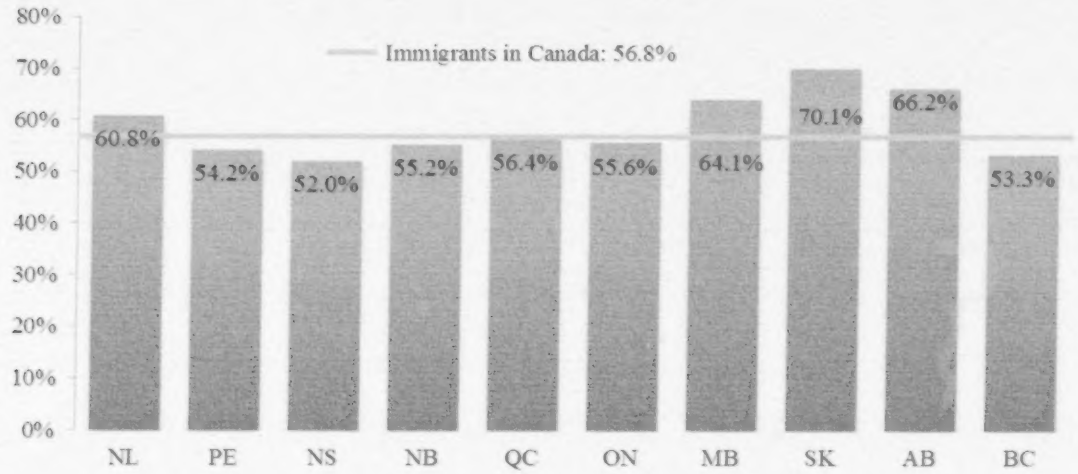


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014

Immigrants in Alberta had the second highest employment rate, at 66.2% behind Saskatchewan's 70.1% in 2014 (Figure 8). The employment rate for immigrants in Alberta in 2014 was 9.4 percentage points above the Canadian immigrant rate of 56.8%.

Figure 8

Employment Rates for Immigrants by Province, 2014

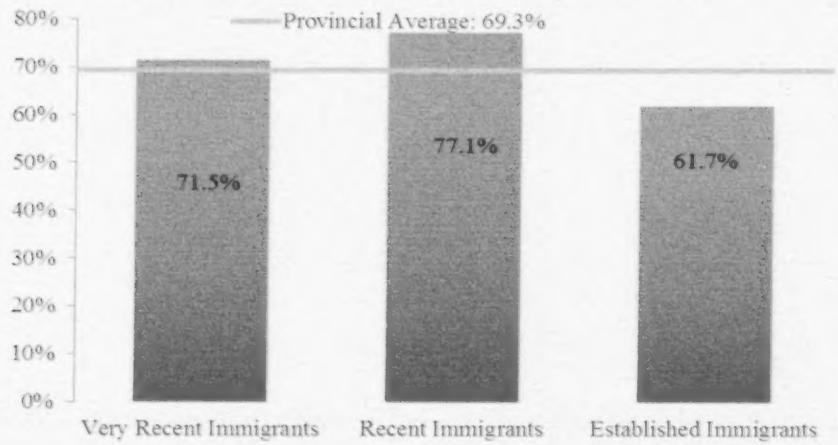


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014

In 2014, recent immigrants in Alberta had the highest employment rate, at 77.1% (Figure 9). This rate was 15.4 percentage points higher than the rate for established immigrants. The provincial employment rate was 69.3%.

Figure 9

Employment Rates for Alberta Immigrants, 2014

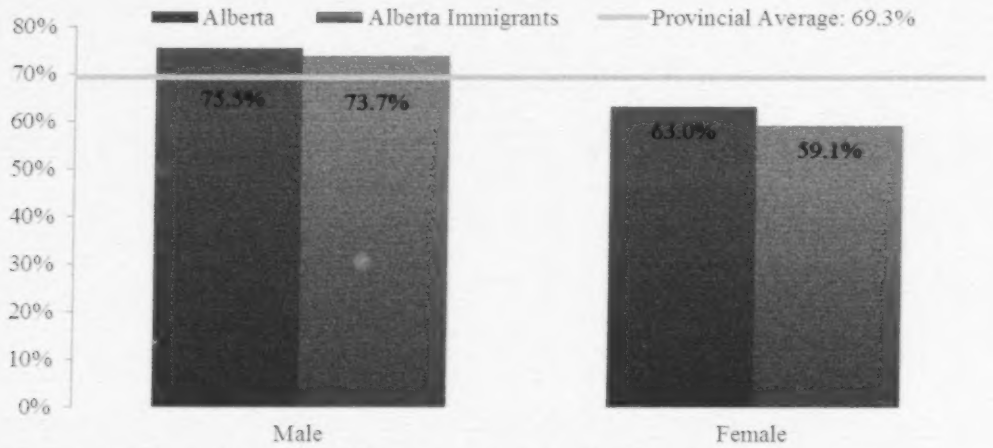


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014
Note: See the appendix for the definitions of very recent immigrants, recent immigrants and established immigrants.

In 2014, the employment rate for Alberta immigrant males was 1.8 percentage points lower than the provincial rate for males. The rate for immigrant females was 3.9 percentage points lower than the provincial rate for females (Figure 10).

Figure 10

Employment Rates, 2014

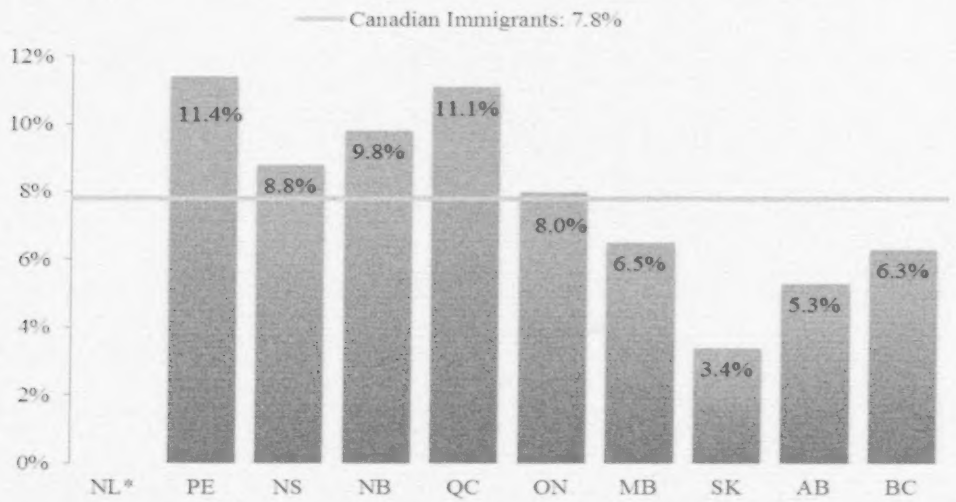


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014

Unemployed immigrants accounted for 22.7% of total unemployed Albertans in 2014. The unemployment rate of Alberta's immigrants was 5.3% in 2014 and 0.6 percentage points higher than the provincial unemployment rate of 4.7% but way below Canada's unemployment rate of 7.8% for immigrants (Figure 11).

Figure 11

Unemployment Rates for Immigrants by Province, 2014

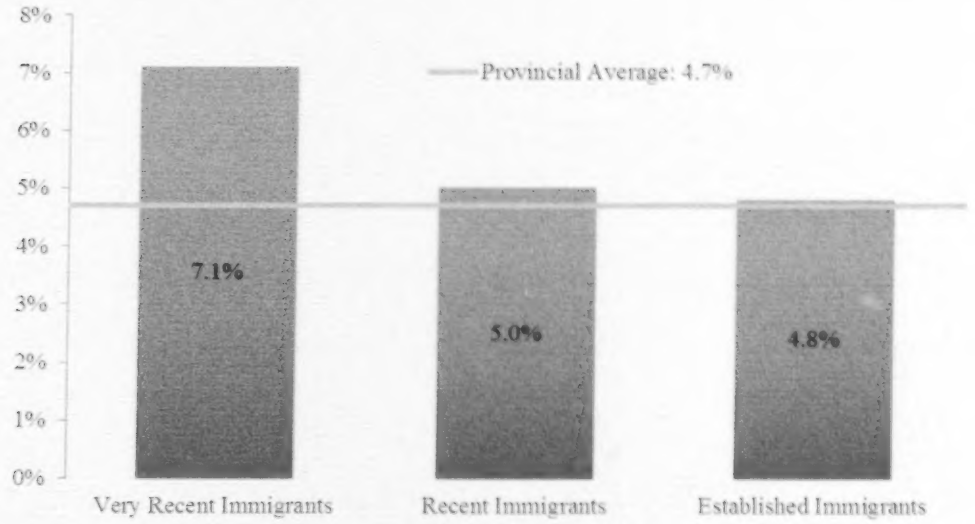


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014
Note: The rate for Newfoundland and Labrador was not disclosed.
** Insufficient data*

The unemployment rates for immigrants in 2014 varied by the length of residence in the country since arrival. The unemployment rate for very recent immigrants was 2.3 percentage points higher than the rate for established immigrants (Figure 12).

Figure 12

Unemployment Rates for Alberta Immigrants, 2014



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014
Note: See the Appendix for the definitions of very recent immigrants, recent immigrants and established immigrants.

3. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Industry

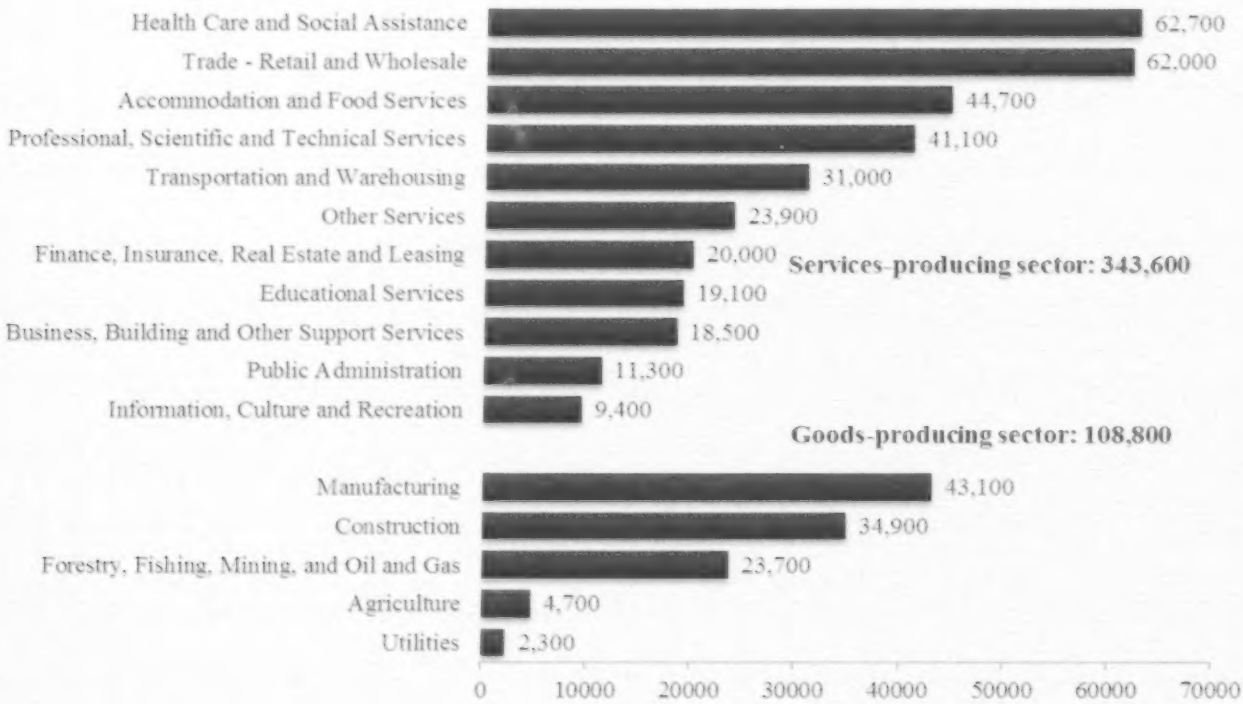
In 2014, 343,600 or 76.0% of employed Alberta immigrants worked in the Services-Producing Sector (Figure 13). The provincial average for this sector was 80.3%.

The top five industries in which immigrants were employed in 2014 were: Health Care and Social Assistance, 62,700; Trade - Retail and Wholesale, 62,000; Accommodation and Food Services, 44,700; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, 41,100; and Transportation and Warehousing, 31,000. Together, these five industries accounted for 48.8% of all employed immigrants in the province.

The proportion of immigrants employed in the Goods-Producing sector was 24.0%, which was 4.9 percentage points lower than the proportion for the entire province (Figure 14).

Figure 13

Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Industry, 2014



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014

For immigrants in Alberta, 37.4% were employed in the following three industries: Health Care and Social Assistance; Trade; and Accommodation and Food Services.

For very recent immigrants, 42.0% worked in these three industries. For recent immigrants, 41.1% worked in these industries; whereas for established immigrants, 34.6% were employed in those industries.

Figure 14

Percentage Distribution of Employed Albertans and Alberta Immigrants by Industry, 2014

Industry	Alberta	Total Landed Immigrants	Very Recent Immigrants	Recent Immigrants	Established Immigrants
Goods-Producing Sector	**28.9%**	**24.0%**	**24.7%**	**22.1%**	**24.5%**
Agriculture	2.7%	1.0%	*	*	1.3%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Quarrying, Oil and Gas	7.8%	5.2%	5.0%	6.4%	4.9%
Utilities	0.8%	0.5%	*	*	0.7%
Construction	11.3%	7.7%	7.0%	7.2%	8.1%
Manufacturing	6.4%	9.5%	11.2%	8.1%	9.4%
Services-Producing Sector	**71.1%**	**76.0%**	**75.3%**	**77.9%**	**75.5%**
Trade	14.1%	13.7%	13.2%	17.9%	12.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	5.7%	6.9%	5.3%	6.1%	7.7%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	4.6%	4.4%	2.7%	4.3%	5.0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	8.1%	9.1%	8.7%	10.9%	8.6%
Business, Bbuilding and Other Support Services	3.5%	4.1%	5.9%	4.7%	3.2%
Educational Services	5.5%	4.2%	2.5%	3.3%	5.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	10.6%	13.9%	13.7%	14.6%	13.6%
Information, Culture and Recreation	3.2%	2.1%	1.6%	1.6%	2.4%
Accommodation and Food Services	6.6%	9.9%	15.1%	8.6%	8.5%
Other Services	5.4%	5.3%	4.7%	3.7%	6.0%
Public Administration	3.9%	2.5%	1.6%	2.3%	2.9%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014
Note: Percent may not add to 100% due to rounding
** Insufficient data*

4. Employment of Immigrants in Alberta by Occupation

In 2014, a higher proportion of Alberta immigrants were employed in the following five occupations compared to the provincial average: Management, Natural and applied sciences and related, Health, Sales and services, and Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities. Together, these five occupations accounted for 58.1% of employed Alberta immigrants compared to the provincial share of 47.7%.

Figure 15

Percent Distribution of Employed Albertans by Occupation, 2014

Occupation	Alberta	Immigrants
Management	8.0%	9.2%
Business, finance and administrative	16.6%	14.1%
Natural and applied sciences and related	7.9%	10.2%
Health	5.9%	7.8%
Social science, education, government service and religion	7.5%	6.3%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	2.6%	1.7%
Sales and service	23.0%	26.2%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related	19.7%	17.2%
Unique to primary industry	6.0%	2.7%
Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	2.9%	4.7%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014

In 2014, the occupation that employed the highest proportions of very recent, recent and established immigrants was Sales and service (Figure 16).

Figure 16

Percentage Distribution of Employed Immigrants by Category and Occupation, 2014

Occupation	Very Recent Immigrants	Recent Immigrants	Established Immigrants
Management	4.0%	6.6%	11.8%
Business, finance and administrative	11.7%	16.5%	14.0%
Natural and applied sciences and related	8.7%	12.1%	10.0%
Health	8.0%	8.0%	7.7%
Social science, education, government service and religion	5.3%	6.6%	6.5%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	*	*	2.0%
Sales and service	36.8%	27.1%	22.4%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related	16.0%	16.3%	17.9%
Unique to primary industry	3.5%	*	3.0%
Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	4.8%	4.4%	4.7%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014
** Insufficient data*
Note: Percent may not add to 100% due to rounding

5. Full-time/Part-time Employment of Immigrants in Alberta

In 2014, Alberta immigrants had a higher proportion of full time employment compared to the provincial proportion. Established Alberta immigrants had the highest percentage of full-time employment, 85.3%; while recent immigrants had the highest percentage of part-time employment, 17.4%.

Figure 17

Proportion of Full- and Part-Time Employment in Alberta, 2014

	Employment	Proportion Full-time Employment	Proportion Part-time Employment
Alberta	1,890,700	84.3%	15.7%
Immigrants	369,800	84.4%	15.6%
Very Recent Immigrants	83,600	83.7%	16.3%
Recent Immigrants	82,100	82.6%	17.4%
Established Immigrants	204,100	85.3%	14.6%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014
Note: Percent may not add to 100% due to rounding

Alberta immigrants had a lower proportion of 15 to 24 year olds employed full time compared to the provincial share; however a higher proportion of Alberta immigrants of 25 to 54 year olds and 55 years and over were employed full time.

Figure 18

Full-time and Part-time Employment in Alberta by Age Group, 2014

	Alberta		Alberta Immigrants	
	Employed	Percent	Employed	Percent
All 15+ years	2,274,600	100.0%	452,400	100.0%
Full-time	1,898,500	83.5%	380,200	84.0%
Part-time	376,100	16.5%	72,200	16.0%
15-24 years	320,400	14.1%	32,600	7.2%
Full-time	202,300	8.9%	17,400	3.8%
Part-time	118,000	5.2%	15,200	3.4%
25-54 years	1,543,300	67.8%	326,600	72.2%
Full-time	1,368,700	60.2%	288,100	63.7%
Part-time	174,600	7.7%	38,400	8.5%
55+ years	410,900	18.1%	93,300	20.6%
Full-time	327,400	14.4%	74,700	16.5%
Part-time	83,500	3.7%	18,600	4.1%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014

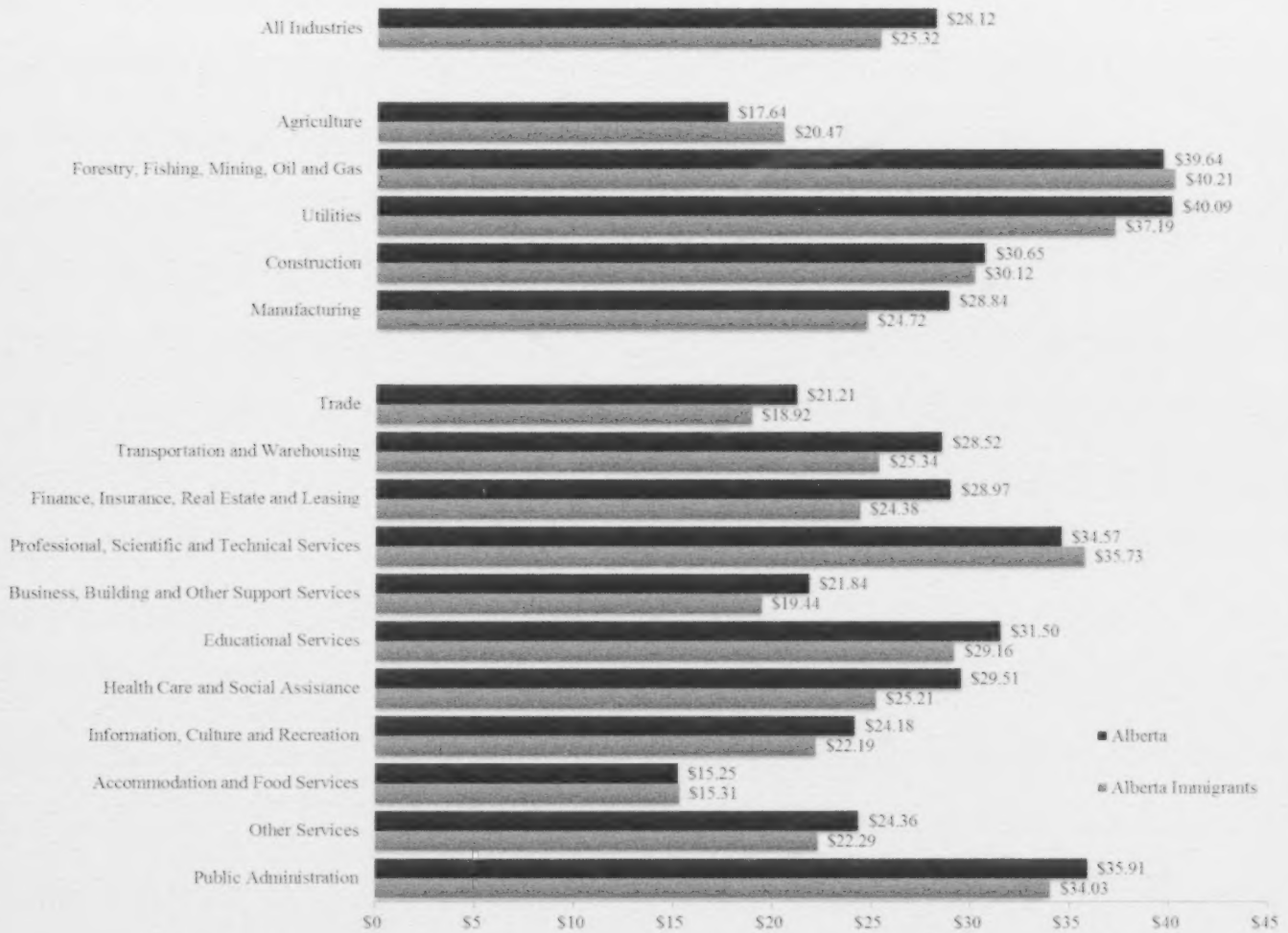
6. Average Hourly Wage of Immigrants in Alberta

Alberta immigrants employed in the following four industries earned higher average hourly wages than the provincial average: Agriculture; Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; and Accommodation and Food Services (Figure 19). The three industries with the largest difference between the provincial average and the average for Alberta immigrants were: Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing, with a differential of $4.59; Health care and social assistance, $4.30; and Manufacturing, $4.12.

Overall, Alberta immigrants' hourly wages were $2.80 less than the Alberta average.

Figure 19

Average Hourly Wages for Albertans by Industry, 2014

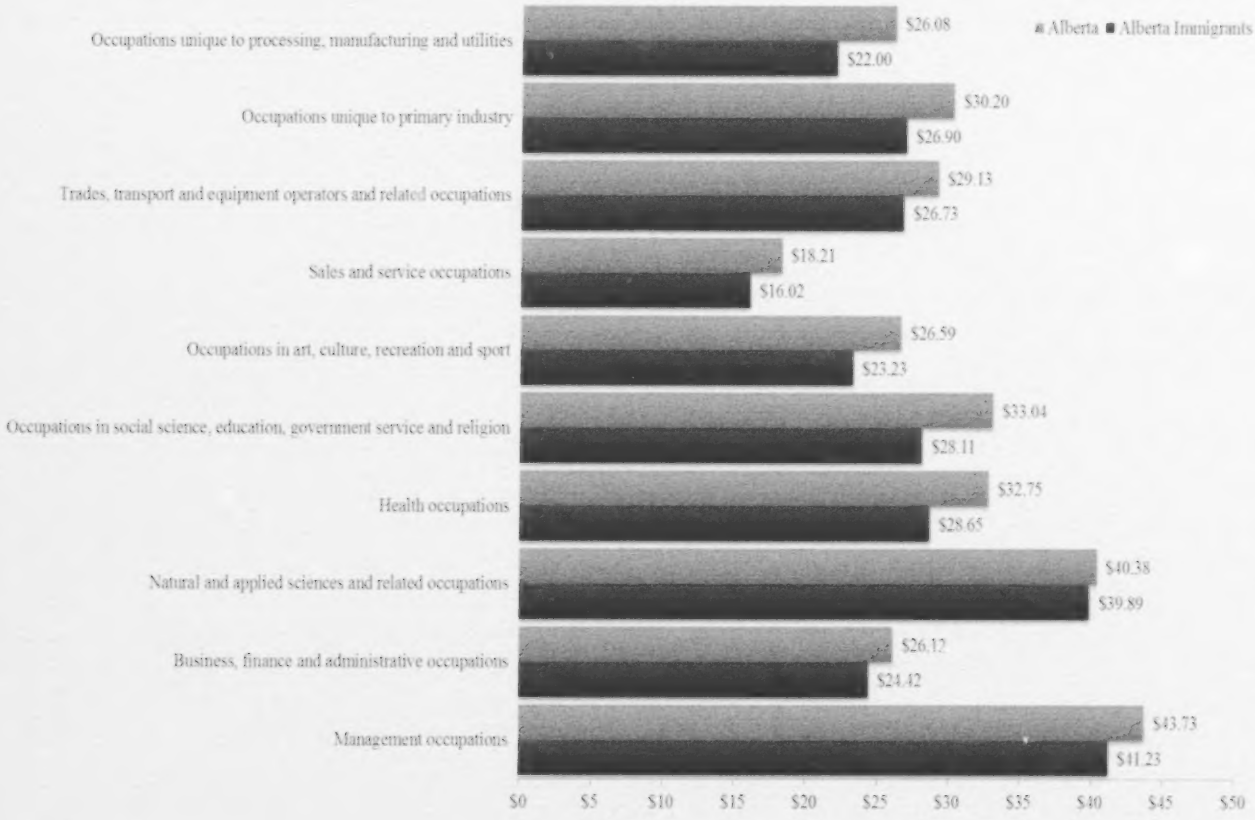


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014

The provincial average hourly wage by occupation was higher than the average for Alberta immigrants in all occupations in 2014 (Figure 20). The three occupations with the largest difference between the provincial average and the average for Alberta immigrants were: Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion, with a differential of $4.93; Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities, $4.08; and Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport, $3.36.

Figure 20

Average Hourly Wages for Albertans by Occupation, 2014

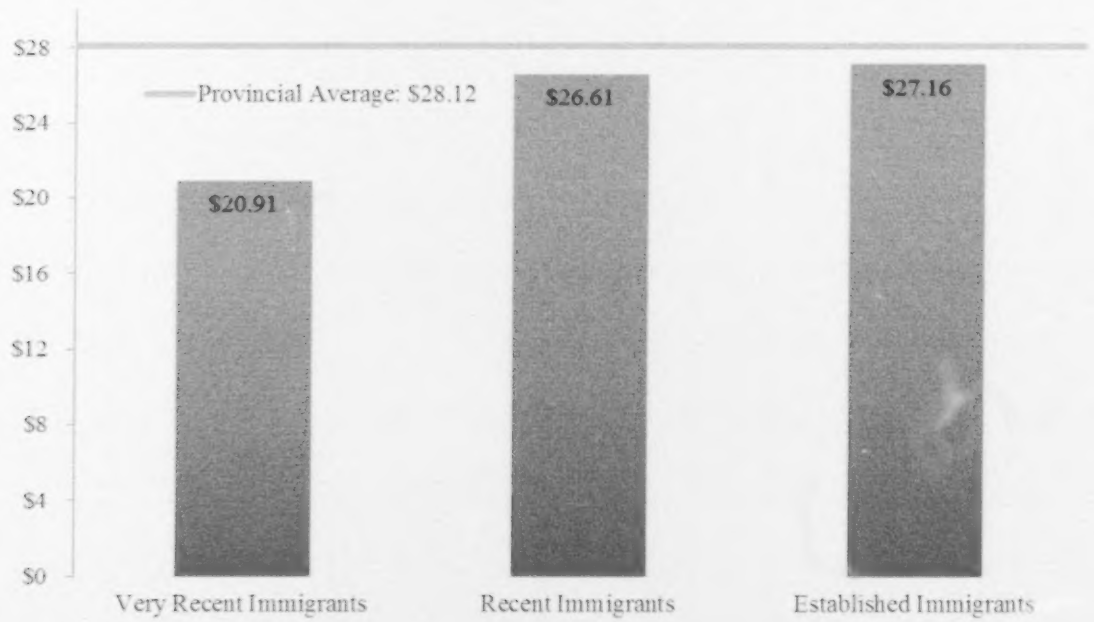


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014

The average hourly wages immigrants received were higher as they became more established in Alberta (Figure 21). Established immigrants received the highest average hourly wage, which were $6.25 more than very recent immigrants and $0.55 more than recent immigrants in 2014.

Figure 21

Average Hourly Wages for Alberta Immigrants



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, 2014

Appendix

All of the following definitions are from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey 2014.pdf, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE.

Employment Rate: The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the working age population (WAP).

Industry: The general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only).

Labour Force: The labour force is composed of the portion of the WAP who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week containing the 15th day of the month in which information is collected for the Labour Force Survey.

Occupation: The kind of work persons 15+ years were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

Immigrant: Refers to people who are, or have been, landed immigrants in Canada. A landed immigrant is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Canadian citizens by birth and non-permanent residents (persons from another country who live in Canada and have a work or study permit, or are claiming refugee status, as well as family members living here with them) are not landed immigrants. **Very recent immigrants** are individuals who have been landed immigrants in Canada for 5 years or less prior to the Labour Force Survey (LFS). **Recent immigrants** are individuals who have been landed immigrants in Canada for more than 5 years but no more than 10 years prior to the LFS. **Established immigrants** are individuals who have been landed immigrants in Canada for more than 10 years prior to the LFS.

Participation Rate: The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the WAP. This measure represents the proportion of the WAP that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Working Age Population: Those persons 15+ years except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

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- 2014 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review
- Monthly Alberta Labour Force Statistics Highlights and Packages
- Alberta's Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook
- Alberta Labour Force Profiles
- Alberta Industry Profiles

http://work.alberta.ca/labour/labour-market-information.html (see Labour Market Information)
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